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Don't let drooping get you down. 21

BRING ON THE DRAMA

Insider dirt from the 'RHONY' Season 8 premiere. 18

Father in eviction shooting death made prior threats. 6

SUPER NOVA

It was a wild scene Tuesday as the Wildcats returned home after their historic NCAA victory. 2, 22 & 23

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3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

PAYPAL PULLS NC PLAN AFTER TRANSGENDER BATHROOM LAW

PayPal Holdings Inc. on Tuesday canceled plans to open a global operations center in Charlotte, North Carolina, and invest $3.6 million in the area after the state passed a controversial law targeting LGBT citizens. The digital payment company's protest is the first by a major business after North Carolina became the first state last month to enact a measure requiring people to use bathrooms or locker rooms in schools and other public facilities that match the gender on their birth certificate rather than their gender identity. REUTERS

REBELS SHOOT DOWN SECOND SYRIAN JET IN A MONTH

2 Rebels shot down a second Syrian warplane in less than a month on Tuesday and reportedly captured its pilot in an area near Aleppo where heavy fighting has erupted in recent days despite a cessation of hostilities agreement. The Syrian army said the jet was shot down with an anti-aircraft missile — the same type of weapon it says was used to shoot down a warplane in western Syria in March — but rebels accused Damascus of fabricating the claim, saying the plane was downed with anti-aircraft guns. Foreign-backed rebels have long demanded anti-aircraft weapons to fight against devastating aerial raids by Syrian and, since September, Russian forces. But their backers, which include Western and Sunni Muslim regional states, are wary of delivering weapons that could fall into the hands of hardline groups. REUTERS

UNITED FLIGHT ATTENDANT LEAVES PACKED PLANE ON SLIDE

3 A United Airlines flight attendant deployed an emergency evacuation slide on an airplane after it arrived in Houston and used it to exit a plane packed with passengers, an airline official said on Tuesday. "It is our understanding that she deployed it intentionally," said United Airlines spokesman Charlie Hobart, adding airline officials have been speaking with the flight attendant to see why she deployed the slide in the incident that took place on Monday. In a video shown on Houston TV station KPRC, the flight attendant tosses her bag out of a door behind the cockpit and slides down the slide. She grabs the bag and walks away from the plane, which was at full stop. REUTERS

Villanova Wildcats merchandise flew off the shelves at the University Store at Villanova's suburban Philadelphia campus. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Nova Nation rallies to welcome champs

Wildcats fans were beaming Tuesday after the NCAA victory.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

As a few thousand people packed into Villanova Stadium to get their first glimpse of their returning heroes, they arrived back on campus knowing their school's legacy would never be the same.

They're just college kids, but after Monday night's NCAA national championship win, the Villanova Wildcats are suddenly Philadelphia celebrities.

Several thousand students, alumni, families and fans of the Wildcats poured onto an open field on the Main Line campus Tuesday evening for a homecoming of sorts.

And now, the modest Main Line Catholic school has some the hottest merchandise in the nation.

Villanova University gear has been flying off shelves at the campus since early Tuesday morning.

Nova's bookstore opened early, before 8 a.m. Tuesday, with a line of people at the door wanting their championship shirts, said store manager Ryan Snyder.

"It's been full of excitement. As the day's progressed, it keeps getting busier and busier. Students are starting to now wake up from a hard night of partying," he said.

The university canceled classes Tuesday after the news of the win.

"Hardcore Villanovans were here this morning before daylight," said Snyder, adding that the biggest sellers have been the "Champs" shirts that were worn in Villanova's locker room Monday night in Houston.

He said store staff had to drive to New Jersey to pick up 5,000 units Tuesday morning from Nike and were driving back early Tuesday afternoon to pick up another 5,000 to replenish the stock.

"We're working on getting the replenishment to fill our web orders and in-store demand," said Snyder. "We have $1.6 million in product coming in [through Thursday]. It's been nonstop ever since we opened our doors [Tuesday] morning. All hands on deck."

During the day Tuesday, Sen. Bob Casey took to the Senate floor to offer his congratulations to the Wildcats and to tip his hat to head coach Jay Wright's subtle reaction to the game-winning shot by Kris Jenkins.

"It was a remarkable game for a number of reasons," said Casey.

"A great coach … also for the way he conducted himself on a whim. We learn a lot about people in victory and defeat, whether that's in athletics contests or even in politics or in life itself. I thought Jay Wright showed a lot of class in the way he conducted himself after winning, which is not always the case in sports today."

Villanova parade downtown

Many Philly sports purists are upset over a Main Line college having a parade in downtown Philly.

The last Philadelphia sports-related parade down Broad Street was in 2008, in late October to celebrate the Phillies' second World Series title.

On Friday there will be another championship march, this one on Market Street for the 2016 NCAA Tournament champion Villanova Wildcats.

Much debate has taken place, and continues to echo between Philly sports purists over whether or not the Main Line university should hold a parade in Philadelphia. But the college and city officials determined it was worthy of a big celebration, and at 1 p.m. it will commence at 20th and Market.

It is a similar route to the one taken by the last victorious Wildcats, the 1985 national champs, who upset Georgetown in the only other Villanova championship win.

The route will march five blocks straight down Market Street and finish at Dillworth Park next to City Hall. EVAN MACY

The timetables they are a-changin'

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New Regional Rail schedules go into effect Sunday, April 10, 2016. For most Regional Rail Lines, Saturday & Sunday departure times for trains operating to/from Center City will be EARLIER than previously scheduled. Train destinations on some Lines will change and a majority of train numbers will change.

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BRIEF

Uber passenger takes wheel of car, crashes during police chase: Cops

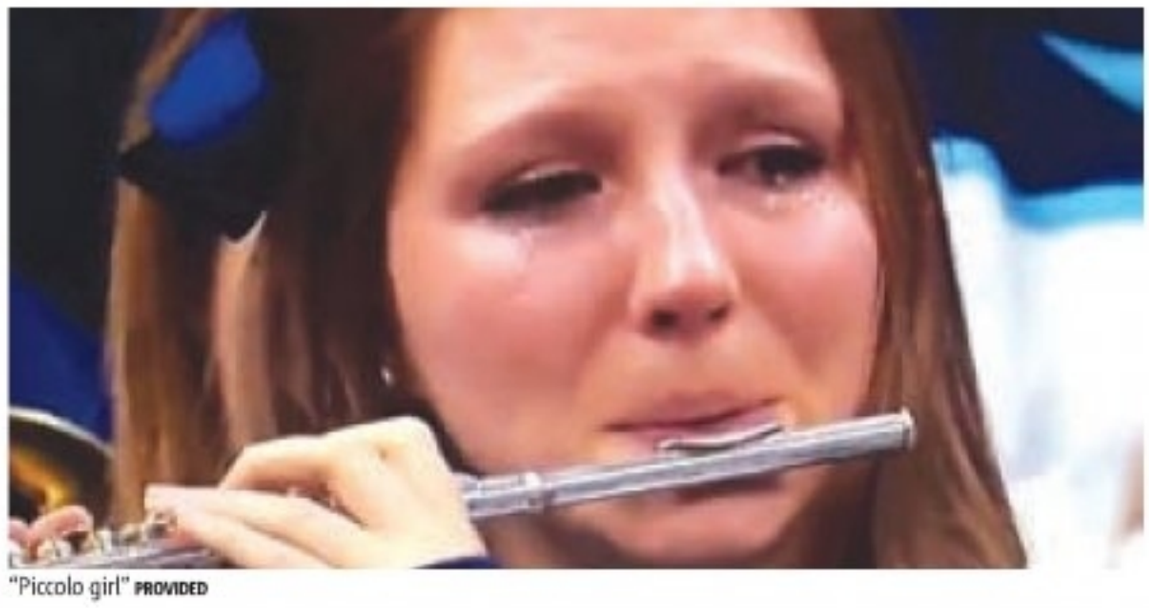
An Uber passenger took control of the car as the driver slept before crashing the car as he was trying to escape police, authorities said.

New York City resident Juan Carlos, 20, called for Uber to take him 200 miles from Philadelphia to central New York, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

The driver reportedly asked Carlos to take the wheel so he could nap. Carlos was then clocked going 86 mph in a 65 mph zone on Interstate 81 near Binghamton.

When the actual driver awoke, he asked why Carlos was driving so fast and Carlos responded that it was because the police were chasing him, according to the Inquirer.

Both suffered minor injuries. Carlos was reportedly charged with fleeing police and driving without a license. JACLYN MARR



"Piccolo girl" PROVIDED

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'Piccolo girl' announces retirement after victory

A year after she went viral crying as Villanova fell to NC State, Piccolo Girl is celebrating her team's championship.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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"Piccolo Girl," the Villanova University marching band player who went viral after she was caught weeping while watching her team lose to North Carolina State in 2015, has announced her "retirement" after Villanova's win over University of North Carolina.

"Oh what a difference a year makes."
Chalifoux

"Oh what a difference a year makes," wrote Piccolo Girl, whose real name is Roxanne Chalifoux, on Twitter, after watching Villanova's nerve-tingling winning basket.

"I want to thank everyone for their kindness and support throughout these crazy basketball seasons. 'Piccolo girl' can officially retire," she later tweeted.

Car with sleeping twin toddlers inside stolen in Olney: cops

Three-year-old twins are safe after the car they were sleeping in was stolen in Philadelphia's Olney neighborhood, Philly.com reported.

The incident reportedly happened late Monday evening around 11:30 p.m. near Broad Street and Chew Avenue.

The twins' father left the car running with the children in it when a thief jumped in and drove off. Police found the car shortly after near 15th Street and Widener Place with the boys still asleep and unharmed, 6ABC reported.

Police are still investigating the incident and looking for the thief. MATTHEW LEE

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Father of girl killed during eviction standoff threatened 'hail of gunfire'

Menacing call was made before a constable came to the Meyer household but was not disclosed to police.

Ciara and Meyer PROVIDED

A Pennsylvania man accused of homicide in the death of his 12-year-old daughter threatened to "go out in a hail of gunfire" if he was evicted from his home, but state officials declined to relay that to police, according to testimony in court Tuesday.

Five days later, Donald Meyer, 58, raised an assault rifle to Penn Township constable Clark Steele when he came to carry out the eviction. Steele shot Meyer in the arm, but the bullet then struck his daughter, Ciara Meyer, in the chest, killing her.

"We took no action. We get these calls all the time," testified Susan Evans, an agent of the state Bureau of Consumer Protection, a division of the state attorney general's office.

"He did not seem violent and was not addressing a specific person," Evans said.

Evans was a witness at Meyer's preliminary hearing before Magisterial District Judge Richard Dougherty in Enola, a suburb of Harrisburg, the state capital.

The judge ordered Meyer to stand trial on a charge of criminal homicide for causing the death of his daughter Jan. 11, aggravated assault for pointing the rifle at Steele, and illegal possession of firearms.

Meyer's threat was only evident through "20-20 hindsight," said Chuck Ardo, a spokesman for Attorney General Kathleen Kane. The bureau acted appropriately by notifying police after the tragedy, he said.

Besides the Israeli-made Tavor assault rifle, Meyer had an M-4 carbine, three handguns, and 258 rounds of .223 ammunition, Pennsylvania state trooper Trisha Campbell testified.

Meyer was barred from owning firearms because of an involuntary commitment to a mental hospital in 2011, Campbell said. But he failed to voluntarily disclose that to gun dealers, Campbell said.

Steele, the constable who fired the fatal shot, was cleared of any wrongdoing.

Steele, his voice cracking, testified that he saw Ciara standing next to her father, but then saw the assault rifle rising toward his chest.

"I said no, no, oh God!" he said. "I knew I was dying. There was no way to retreat." He said he knew his body armor would not protect him against a rifle bullet.

Sherry Meyer, Ciara's mother, testified she was napping when the confrontation began, but then heard her daughter scream, "Dad, Dad, please stop!" The gunshot followed.

Meyer, who wore an orange jumpsuit and shackles, is being held without bail. REUTERS

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Volunteers needed at 'Citizenship Day' clinics for Philly-area immigrants

Local attorneys will be lending free legal support this weekend in Philly and the five-county area to immigrants applying for naturalization — which brings with it the right to vote.

"Many clients just can't believe that they're receiving a service without a fee," said Jason Hernandez, a lawyer with HIAS Pennsylvania, which is leading the clinic. "Removing that barrier of cost is really life-changing. The reaction is just gratitude, and disbelief to some extent."

The naturalization application clinic is scheduled for April 9 at the Community College of Philadelphia. Mayor Jim Kenney welcomed members of HIAS at City Hall on Tuesday and other immigration legal services organizations, and urged more people to volunteer to help with the effort.

Mayor Jim Kenney CHARLES MOSTOLLER

"We need between 25 and 30 more attorneys to serve all the applicants, including those on our wait list," said Hannah Cartwright, an attorney with the Nationalities Services Center.

Currently, about 150 immigrants will be seeking free legal help with their naturalization applications on Saturday in the greater Philadelphia area. That's five times as much as the number of applicants from the first citizenship day in 2008. Even non-attorneys can volunteer to help.

The government charges $680 for naturalization, but the fee is waived for people receiving food stamps, public benefits or who live at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty line

The 2016 presidential election campaign — which has been dominated by heated immigration rhetoric, mostly from Donald Trump — is creating an incentive to some immigrants to want to get the right to vote, Hernandez said.

"People are fearful," he said. "They're concerned about potent candidates being elected, and they're concerned about having their voices heard and having that ability to shape the society in which they live and contribute on a daily basis."

Judith Bernstein-Baker, executive director of HIAS, said even the high clinic turnout is just a fraction of the number of local immigrants seeking naturalization and the right to vote.

"That pales in comparison to people who are doing it on their own. There's going to be thousands of people trying to naturalize," she said. SAM NEWHOUSE

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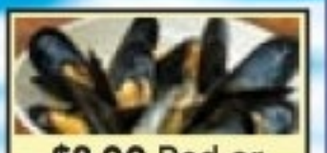

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Freshman local politico slams congressman as 'fraud' online

The freshman member of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners recently slammed Republican Congressman Pat Meehan on social media, a move a public affairs strategist attributed to "the excitement of youth."

Minority member Joe Gale — who was elected to the board in November alongside Democrats Josh Shapiro and Val Arkoosh despite lacking his party's endorsement — recently wrote a diatribe about Meehan on his official Facebook page.

Gale, 27, called Meehan "nothing but a fraud," while simultaneously swinging his support behind Montgomery County businessman Stan Casacio for Meehan's seventh-district seat.

"Congressman Pat Meehan is defrauding the Republican voters of the 7th congressional district by misrepresenting himself when he runs as a Republican and then goes to Washington and votes like a Democrat," Gale wrote in an e-mail.

Gale and Meehan PROVIDED

When asked about this post recently, though, Meehan didn't seem to take the bait.

"These are the politics of today. The interesting thing is, my record is very similar to every other elected member from the Republican Party here in southeastern Pennsylvania," he said.

In defending his stance, Gale cited Heritage Action, a sibling organization of the conservative think tank Heritage Foundation, which examines the voting records of representatives in Congress and rates how their votes align with conservative values in general.

"Congressman Meehan has a failing scorecard of only 36 percent," Gale said.

But national public affairs strategist Larry Ceisler, principal of Ceisler Media & Issue Advocacy, pointed to Gale's youth as a possible reason for his harsh characterization of Meehan.

"Maybe when [Gale] is 30, he will understand that you do have to work with people from the other party," said Ceisler. "Its not like Pat Meehan is some wild-eyed liberal. Hey, it's the excitement of youth."

When asked about any turmoil in his party this election season, Montgomery County Republican Committee Chairman Bill Donnelly called Meehan a "common sense conservative" who's been "fighting for Montgomery County families for years."

The primary election is April 26. JENNY DEHUFF

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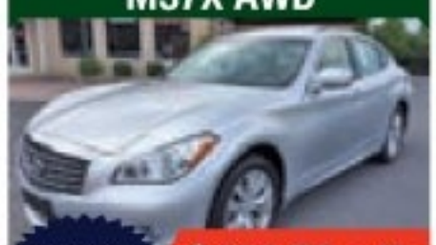
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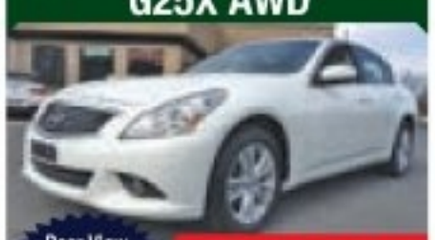
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Trump would try to squeeze Mexico into funding border wall

Donald Trump proposed Tuesday forcing Mexico to pay for his planned border wall by threatening to block remittances from illegal immigrants, which he said amounts to "welfare" for poor families in Mexico that their government does not provide.

The Republican presidential candidate's campaign said in a memo that if elected in November, Trump would use a U.S. antiterrorism law to cut off such money transfers unless Mexico made a one-time payment of $5 billion to $10 billion for the wall.

Trump's pledge to build the wall has been a much-touted highlight of a platform targeting illegal immigration in the United States that has helped make him the front-runner to be the Republican nominee for the Nov. 8 election.

Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

It is unclear how much a wall along the nearly 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border would cost, and Mexico has been adamant it would not pay.

The memo elaborated on an idea Trump floated in August, when he suggested seizing all remittances tied to "illegal wages."

It said that upon taking office a Trump administration would propose a rule mandating companies such as Western Union Co. to require customers to prove they were legally in the United States. If Mexico agreed to fund the wall, Trump would drop the proposed rule, it said.

"It's an easy decision for Mexico," his campaign said, adding the country receives about $24 billion a year in remittances from Mexicans in the United States. REUTERS

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San Francisco could be first US city with fully paid parental leave

If approved, the measure would provide new moms and dads in the private sector with six weeks of time off, nearly doubling the pay they are now eligible to collect under California law.

San Francisco could become the first U.S. city to mandate fully paid parental leave, requiring employers to shoulder a substantial portion of the burden and far exceeding the benefits provided by California and other states and cities.

Better benefits for parents are part of campaigns across the nation aimed at combating rising income inequality. California's governor Monday signed into law a bill raising the state's minimum wage to $15 an hour by 2023 from the current $10.

The parental leave vote, scheduled for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on Tuesday afternoon, comes at a time when the United States lags behind other developed countries in parental leave for employees.

On Monday, New York's governor signed a bill granting 12-week paid family leave that will phase in by 2021.

California and New Jersey provide up to six weeks of partial pay, while Rhode Island offers four, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The city of Seattle provides four weeks of fully paid leave.

The new San Francisco policy, which would take effect in 2017, would require private employers with at least 20 workers to pay 45 percent of worker wages for as long as six weeks, according to the legislation.

The remaining 55 percent of weekly wages would come from a worker-funded state disability program.

Leave payments are calculated as a percentage of wages up to an annual ceiling of $106,740. REUTERS

San Francisco already offers 12 weeks of fully paid leave to its approximately 30,000 city employees. GETTY IMAGES

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Mississippi governor signs religion law over gay rights protests

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant on Tuesday signed a far-reaching law allowing people with religious objections to deny wedding services to same-sex couples and protecting other actions considered discriminatory by gay rights activists.

The measure also clears the way for employers to cite religion in determining workplace policies on dress code, grooming and bathroom and locker access.

Bryant, a Republican, said in a statement he signed the law "to protect sincerely held religious beliefs and moral convictions of individuals, organizations and private associations from discriminatory action by state government."

His decision comes amid national protests over a new law barring transgender people in North Carolina from choosing bathrooms consistent with their gender identity. The governors of Georgia and Virginia vetoed similar "religious liberty" bills last week.

Gov. Phil Bryant GETTY IMAGES

The measures are part of a wave of state-level legislation being pushed by social conservatives, with some efforts intensifying after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year that legalized same-sex marriage.

The American Civil Liberties Union criticized the Mississippi law, which it said was set to take effect in July. REUTERS

BRIEF

Justice Department's No. 3 attorney stepping down

The acting associate attorney general at the Department of Justice, Stuart Delery, will be leaving his job on April 14, Attorney General Loretta Lynch said on Tuesday.

"Stuart Delery has been an indispensable source of wisdom, leadership and inspiration at the Department of Justice, working relentlessly to make the ideals of equal opportunity and equal justice a reality for all," Lynch said in a statement.

Justice Department spokesman Patrick Rodenbush said Delery was leaving for personal reasons and would explore options in the private sector.

Delery, who served seven years in total at the department, is openly gay and argued at the appellate court level against the Defense of Marriage Act, which prevented gay marriage from being recognized by the federal government.

After the key provisions of the act were overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court, Delery led a government-wide implementation of the decision.

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Twitter to stream Thursday night NFL games in 2016 season

The National Football League said it had chosen Twitter as its exclusive global partner for streaming its Thursday night games during the 2016 regular season.

Twitter Inc., whose shares were little changed at midday, will stream 10 games for free, the NFL said in a statement.

The deal also includes in-game highlights as well as pre-game broadcasts from players and teams on Periscope, Twitter's live-streaming video service.

Twitter outbid a number of companies, including Verizon Communications Inc., Yahoo Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. to win the deal, according to Bloomberg, which first reported the news. Facebook Inc. dropped out of the bidding last week, the report said.

The terms of the deal were not announced, but technology news website Re/code, citing people familiar with the bidding process, reported that Twitter had paid less than $10 million.

The NFL signed a multiyear partnership with Twitter last year to deliver video and other content to fans on a daily basis.

The previous partnership, which expanded the NFL's existing partnership with Twitter, included in-game highlights from preseason through Super Bowl 50.

Anthony Noto, Twitter's current chief financial officer, also held the same position at the NFL between 2008 and 2010. REUTERS

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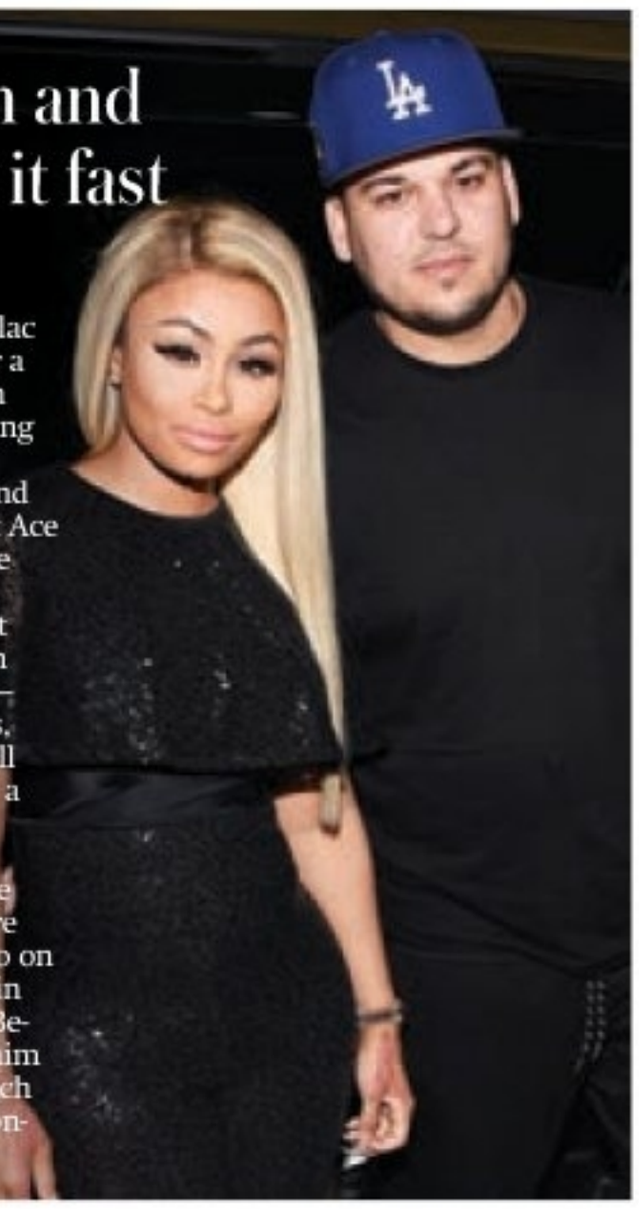

Ah, young love. Rob Kardashian popped the question to girlfriend Blac Chyna on Monday night, giving her a massive ring and locking that down after two months of dating, according to TMZ. The bride-to-be's mom was apparently in town for the event, and all three went out to celebrate — at Ace of Diamonds strip club. Glad they're keeping things traditional.

If you're wondering how the rest of the family feels about the sudden move, apparently the whole gang — Kris Jenner, along with Rob's sisters, half-sisters and brothers-in-law — all fled Los Angeles earlier Monday for a "family vacation."

Wait, did he actually wait until there was no one to stop him before asking her to marry him? And, more importantly, why didn't he get to go on the family vacation? Is Rob the Kevin McAllister of the Kardashian clan? Because I can totally see Kim hitting him with a snide, "You're what the French call 'les incompetents.'" Anyway, congrats to the happy couple!

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Something happy came out of 'Game of Thrones'

At least one "Game of Thrones" mystery has been solved: Former co-stars Kit Harington and Rose Leslie are officially a couple.

The pair — who tussled onscreen and shared a steamy night in a cave a couple seasons ago before Leslie's character took an arrow to the heart — made it official on the red carpet for the Olivier Awards in London, holding hands and laughing and kissing and generally being adorable.

Rumors of their hooking up started back in 2012 and have come and gone ever since, but at least there's some certainty in our "Thrones"-related lives for once. Speaking of which, does this mean Leslie knows whether Jon Snow is really dead or not? Spill it, sister.

@KevinHart4real
Listening to some throwback HOV this morning....This s— got me on one this morning!!!! I might run 7 miles today in the gym!

@parkerposey
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Emilia Clarke doesn't want your dating advice

It's turning out to be a great week for "Game of Thrones"-related dating news. This time though, it's all retrospective, as the Mother of Dragons actress Emilia Clarke finally opens up about dating Seth MacFarlane — a relationship that ended three years ago. Better late than never, right? Clarke tells Glamour magazine that dating in the public eye has its downsides. Who knew? "Well, a con is you have strangers giving you love-life advice, like, 'I'm a big fan of the show, and I'm not sure what you're doing with that guy,' which I didn't react well to," she says. "That happened in New York when Seth and I were together. This guy started to give me advice: 'Can I get a selfie? And by the way…' Unh-unh, bro." Can't imagine why not.

Someone crashed Aaron Paul's wedding

Are you one of the overzealous "Breaking Bad" fans who snuck into Aaron Paul's wedding? Because he'd like a word with you. "We had these three people crash our wedding," a bewildered Paul tells James Corden. "We didn't even know it had happened until we started looking through photos of our wedding and we saw these three strangers." The interlopers stuck out because they weren't dressed for the event's 1920s Parisian carnival theme. Amateurs. I mean, that's Wedding Crashers 101. Another sign that the trio might not be the most advanced at this sort of thing? One of them actually tried to grab the bouquet, according to Paul. Who does that? Just score one of the rock candy blue meth centerpieces and be on your way. Sheesh.

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‘Out of control’

Sonja Morgan and Ramona Singer of “RHONY” give us a sneak peek of Season 8.

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The Bravo series returns tonight at 9 p.m. MATHIEU YOUNG/HEIDI GUTMAN/BRAVO

By now, it’s no secret that “The Real Housewives of New York City” is synonymous with drama. The beloved Bravo series returns for Season 8 tonight at 9 p.m. — and you won’t want to miss a minute.

Leading up to the premiere, Sonja Morgan and Ramona Singer hosted a party at Beautique. Of course, Singer’s brand of Pinot Grigio was served. “Beautique is my home away from home,” Morgan says.

The two stars dish on what fans can expect from the latest “RHONY” installment.

Pushing buttons

After so many seasons, the ladies know how to up the ante. Morgan says, “We all know each other’s buttons to push and we’re out of control with that. But the bonds are strengthened, because we get through it.”

Singer echoes this idea. “We all are calling everyone out on their bullshit,” she says. “I use this favorite quote, ‘Don’t tell me you’re a pineapple when we all know you’re an orange.’ You’re going to see a lot of that.”

Despite the drama, the Housewives have formed strong friendships. Singer says, “I’ve opened myself up more on the show. I’ve gotten to know these women on a deeper level, so my relationships with them have deepened.”

In addition to “Ramonja,” familiar faces — LuAnn de Lesseps, Bethenny Frankel, Carole Radziwill and Dorinda Medley — are returning. Plus, Julianne “Jules” Wainstein joins the cast.

What’s changed?

“I’ve changed tremendously,” Singer says. “One thing that hasn’t changed is my zest for life. … I think I’m a happier, lighter, warmer person with a lot more patience.”

This patience enhanced her relationships, particularly with castmate Bethenny Frankel. “Bethenny and I actually have a really great relationship. It’s really evolved,” Singer says. “It’s so much different than it was even a couple seasons ago.”

Still, when asked if she could take back any “RHONY” scene, it’d be their argument from the Season 3 episode “The Ambush.” “Bethenny and I are walking across the bridge in Brooklyn and she’s telling me things. I actually wasn’t very nice to her,” she recalls. “She’s trying to confide in me and instead of just listening and being tolerant, I kind of beat her up verbally.”

“Talking sex”

When asked what fans can look forward to, Morgan’s response isn’t necessarily what you’d expect. “I want them to see me when I’m with my friends in a loving environment,” she says. “Having dinner, talking sex, talking about gas and poop and stuff like that. The fun times, not the fights.”

But then again, she doesn’t mind some emotion. “And maybe some of those tearful moments where you’ve bonded, like everyone else does in real life.”

The annual trip

“This season is definitely a roller coaster of highs and lows,” Singer says — especially when it comes to the annual group trip. She wouldn’t reveal the location, but the reality star teases, “The things that happen are just beyond unbelievable. You know how they say that life can be stranger than fiction? That’s what this season is. That’s what that trip was.”

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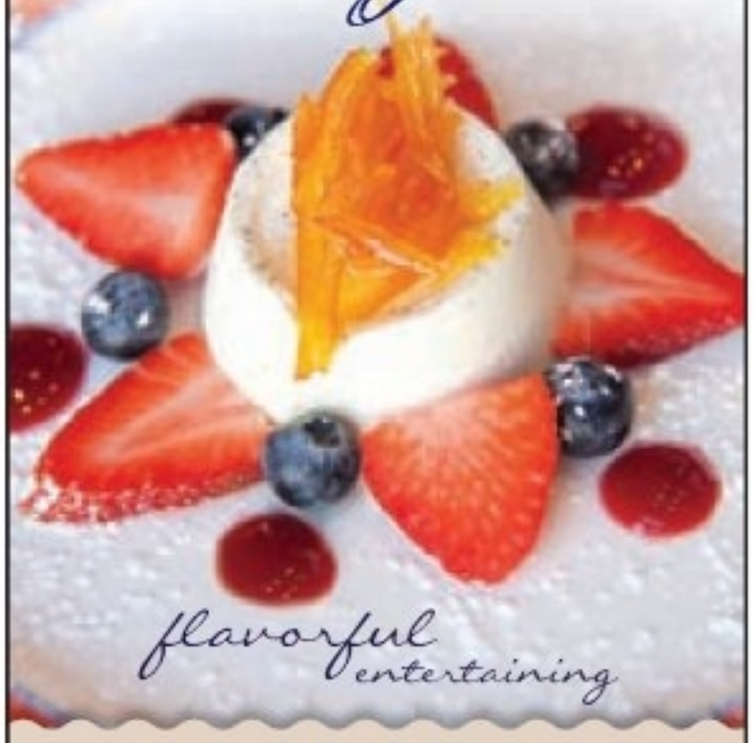

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Learn to chill with a game about cats

I realize that I'm late to the game — literally — on this one, but I am currently obsessed with the Japanese cat collecting app Neko Atsume. If you're not familiar with it (and I apologize for the hours you're about to spend playing it), it's an app from Japan that allows you to feed and amuse cartoon cats, take pictures of them and go a little batty from listening to the music for hours on end. (My boyfriend calls this the "digital crazy cat lady app.")

Now, I've been obsessed with apps before (and video games and comic book series, etc.) and I admit to spending actual real-world money on things like Candy Crush. I actually started seeing the bricks in my fireplace as little shiny candies. It caused hours of actual stress. I've had virtual fishponds where, if you didn't feed the virtual fish, they'd "die," making me feel guilty. (I recognize that this is a little crazy, but tell me you didn't get upset when your Tamagotchi died.)

The reason I love Neko Atsume is there are no actual consequences to your actions. It's relaxing. You feed the cats, but they're not your cats. They just show up for snacks and playtime. If you don't feed them, they just go eat in someone else's yard.

OK, you say — so you're a crazy lady who loves animated cats. Why does this matter? It's because of the type of game this is. Look, I've been a gamer my entire life. I, like many of you, can get addicted to the rush of a game. And by rush, I mean stress. Can I beat the level? Will I make the raid on time? Can I keep fake fish alive? It occurred to me when I started dreaming about shooting bubbles at other bubbles and considered purchasing a fire bubble to blow up those bubbles that maybe I could use a little less stress in my life. Why was I adding to it?

In walked the little kitties of Neko Atsume. There is something really soothing about having no real responsibility. I get to look at adorable fake cats. They don't need me to feed them. I can take pictures of them. There is one called Mr. Meowgi. It makes me laugh and I don't dream about it every night. It's, dare I say, relaxing. Maybe I should start downloading yoga apps next.

JENNA BUSCH

Geek Girl in Hollywood

Jenna Busch takes on the way pop culture snubs its female fans. For more columns, visit metro.us/jenna-busch as well as her site, Legion of Leia (www.legionofleia.com).

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LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

How to keep your houseplant alive

Taylor Johnston

It's easier than you think.

ALLYSON FLORIDIA
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All too often, houseplants look great just long enough to make one solid appearance on Instagram. Then they suddenly begin to droop and no matter what you do, you can't bring them back to life. But fret not — Taylor Johnston, horticulturist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and founder of Gamine Workwear, shares her best tips for keeping your plants happy and thriving.

1 Pick plants based on availability of light

Johnston says different types of plants need different amounts of light. So one way to go about picking a houseplant is to look at how much sun your home gets. She gives cacti as high light options, philodendron as medium light, and Boston fern and Norfolk pine as ones that prefer low light.

2 Changes are gradual

Sometimes it's hard to tell when you're plant is growing, which leaves you wondering if your plant is growing at all. Johnston adds, "Plants move very slowly, so you really have to train your eye and be comfortable not knowing the answer."

3 There's no checklist of rules

You can go to the Internet, gardeners, family and friends, and everyone's going to tell you something different about how to take care of your plants. Johnston stresses that "everyone's environment is different and what works for me and what works for you probably are going to be two different things. That goes for how many days a week we water, how often we're turning our plants to make sure they're getting even exposure to light."

4 Withhold water

The one thing everyone knows to do is water your plant. Most people don't realize overwatering might actually be the problem. So no matter the situation, whether you get little gnats flying out or you see leaves drooping, Johnston advises withholding water and using a sticky trap for the gnats. "A lot of times, a plant displaying symptoms of too much water will look like a plant that has not enough," she adds.

5 Feed your plant

Fertilizing is an often forgotten, but important, task. Your plants need food in addition to sunlight and water. Johnston shares that she doesn't use liquid feed, but if she does, she dilutes it. "No matter what the packaging says, ignore it, cut it in half," Johnston advises. As an alternative, she uses Osmocote, which is a slow-release fertilizer that gives a little bit of food every time you water.

6 Play your plant music

Johnston is a firm believer that plants respond to extrasensory things, that they somehow have "ears" and playing music benefits their spirits. If you're looking for some music ideas, she suggests "MoTown, jazz, things that are universally loved by people" as some options. "I think a quick search on Spotify will lead to a couple playlists."

7 Know that you're going to kill a lot of plants

It's common to attempt to care for a plant, kill it and give up for fear of killing any more. But raising plants, "is something that requires a lot of patience and humor," Johnston says. "You're going to kill a lot of plants in your journey of tending them. And therein, you learn about yourself and become a better person as a result."

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What was it like watching Villanova's epic buzzer-beating win on campus?

Villanova students, fans describe buzzer-beater: "When it went in it was chaos."

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

More than 5,000 Villanova students, alum and big-time basketball fans were jammed into the Pavilion to watch the NCAA National Championship game, hanging on every second of the broadcast being streamed on four mega screens around the arena.

Many of them knew what disappointment was like. They had witness early exits their entire college careers as the Wildcats faltered in the first weekend in recent NCAA Tournaments.

More knew heartbreak, being on hand in 2009 when the Wildcats faltered to North Carolina in that year's Final Four.

But some knew ecstasy, having witnessed the 1985 team defy all the odds and thwart mighty Georgetown to bring home a national title.

With the Cats and UNC Tar Heels tied at 74 with 4.7 seconds to play in Houston, thousands in Villanova blue felt their hearts beating out of their chests.

"Oh, my God, it was so nerve-racking up until the very end," Natalie Versaggi, a West Chester University student but Villanova employee and fan said. "Half our eyes were shut and then we were screaming when they took that shot. We were thinking, 'We can't make it though overtime we are going to crumble as fans.'"

Villanova fans embrace and shed tears of joy at The Pavilion on Monday night. MICHELLE GUSTAFSON

Versaggi and her family know the full palette of basketball emotions, as her father's entire side is full of Nova alum. And she can finally relate, knowing what witnessing history is like.

As can Nova student Nariman Amin.

"I am a senior and I have been praying for this all year," the enthusiastic fan, close to graduation, said with a beaming smile Tuesday as she celebrated Kris Jenkins' improbable buzzer-beating 3-pointer. "When I saw the three leave his hands I was, like, 'Yes, that's going in, we got it.' It was so exciting."

Liam Wall is not a Villanova student but is a die-hard Wildcats fan, and described the scene dramatically: "You could hear a cricket chirping," the Jersey native said. "You could hear everything, man. It was dead quiet but when it went in it was chaos."

Wall and his buddies had an inkling they could bear witness to history when they trekked to the Main Line Monday evening.

"We drove down here from Jersey, we knew they were going to win and here we are, with a buzzer-beater," Wall said." We wanted to see the game up close and personal. We didn't want to just see it on TV. We are in college. We go to a tech school. We don't have this experience. This is amazing."

After thousands assembled on Lancaster Avenue, then moved to the Quad and later back to the streets in celebratory bliss, Philadelphia announced a parade would be held to further acknowledge the incredible achievement of one of their Big 5 basketball programs. A ritual that fans on campus couldn't be more excited for.

"I think a parade should go down from Center City to the Main Line," Amin said.

A parade down Market Street will have to do.

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Villanova's championship game heroics will reverberate for ages

Villanova will never forget Kris Jenkins, who has instantly become a living legend.

JON MARKS
@MetroPhilly
sports@metro.us

Kris Jenkins' shot heard 'round the Main Line will reverberate around here for the ages.

His 3-point buzzer-beater gave Villanova its second national championship. Monday night's 77-74 win over North Carolina in Houston was not only a classic but a rarity — a title game that lived up to its hype and that will go down as one of the great moments in college basketball lore.

For a team touched by magic, for a coach who seemed more distraught for the stunned losing Tar Heels than joyful for his own players, it put the exclamation point on a remarkable season where everything finally came together after so many disappointments.

And it means Jay Wright, Ryan Arcidiacono, Daniel Ochefu, Josh Hart, unlikely sixth man hero Phil Booth and of course, Jenkins, can take their place at the table right alongside Rollie Massimino's celebrated 1985 gang — many of whom, like Eddie Pinckney and Harold Pressley, were on hand for the occasion.

They're all champions.

So for the first time since Brad Lidge fanned Tampa Bay's Eric Hinske to clinch the 2008 World Series for the Phillies, folks here have something to celebrate. Not

Ryan Arcidiacono celebrates Villanova's improbable title on Monday night. GETTY IMAGES

everybody will, because there's still some animosity on Hawk Hill at Saint Joseph's and at Temple toward the Wildcats — and particularly toward Massimino, who many feel was the driving force trying breaking up the Big Five in the late '80s.

While that never happened, it did result in most Big Five games being moved from the Palestra to the various campuses. Consequently, those folks have held a grudge the past three decades.

But for the rest it's party time, with the hope maybe this will lift the curse off the pro teams in town whom — other than those 2008 Phils — have all come up empty since Doctor J's 1983 Sixers finally paid off their "We owe you one" debt.

And had Jenkins' shot spilled out, sending it into overtime after Villanova had squandered a 67-57 lead with five minutes left, they might well have lost to them again. Fortunately, they never had to find out.

Arcidiacono said he simply ran the play the Cats run every day in practice designed for just such an occasion and Jenkins made sure of it. That turned a few thousand crammed into The Pavilion back home delirious. At the same time Houston's NRG Stadium became littered with confetti.

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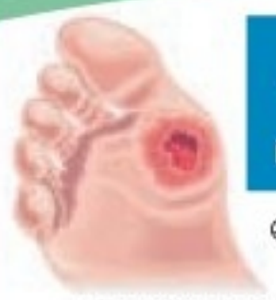

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What are the odds the Flyers land in next week's playoffs?

The Flyers have four big games left to determine their postseason fate.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN
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Claude Giroux and the Flyers are scraping to get into the playoffs. GETTY IMAGES

It's come down to the final five days of the regular season for the Flyers, Red Wings and Bruins. Two teams will qualify for the playoffs, which begin next week, while the third is left home.

Before getting into the nitty-gritty of which team will and will not make the playoffs, though, let's quickly review the new NHL playoff format. The top three teams in each division automatically qualify for the playoffs. Then, the next two teams with the most points from the conference get in via the wild card.

The Islanders and Rangers, separated by two points in the Metropolitan Division, will battle it out over the final four games to determine who gets third place — and faces the white-hot Penguins in the first round — as the odd-team out likely lands the first wild card. The Panthers and Lightning are in a dogfight for first and second in the Atlantic Division, while the Capitals already clinched the Metro Division title.

That leaves the Flyers, Red Wings and Bruins to fight for the last two postseason berths — third place in the Atlantic and the final wild card slot.

Flyers

(91 points, currently in second wild card spot)
Remaining schedule:
Wednesday at Detroit
Thursday vs. Toronto
Saturday vs. Pittsburgh
Sunday at New York Islanders

The popular pick and hottest team of the trio, the Flyers have gone 6-3-1 in their last 10 games to slide into the final wild card spot. The key to whether they finish strong and return to the playoffs after missing last year is the stamina of goalie Steve Mason, who has made nine straight starts. They at least control their own destiny and probably need four points to secure the wild card spot.

Red Wings

(91 points, third place in Atlantic)
Remaining schedule:
Wednesday vs. Flyers
Thursday at Boston
Saturday at New York Rangers

Despite winning three of their last four games, the Red Wings likely need to win two of their final three games, especially the enormous one on Thursday against the Bruins, to seal third place and extend its 24-season postseason appearance streak.

Bruins

(90 points, not in a playoff position)
Remaining schedule:
Tuesday vs. Carolina
Thursday vs. Detroit
Saturday vs. Ottawa

Boston is headed in the wrong direction at the worst time. After looking like a lock to make the playoffs last month, the Bruins have lost seven of their last nine games.

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A petition has been presented to said court by **Adoption Resource Associates, Northampton, MA 01060** representing that the parent(s) of the child lack(s) current ability, capacity, fitness and readiness to assume parental responsibility for the child; that the petitioner's plan for the child will serve the child's best interests; and requesting that this Honorable Court enter a decree under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 210, Section 3, that shall have the effect of terminating the rights of the person(s) named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding effecting the custody, guardianship, adoption or other disposition of the child named herein.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: **Northampton** ON OR BEFORE TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING (10:00AM) ON **05/20/2016**

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WITNESS, Hon. Linda S Fidnick, First Justice of this Court.

Michael J Carey
Register of Probate

Date: March 29, 2016

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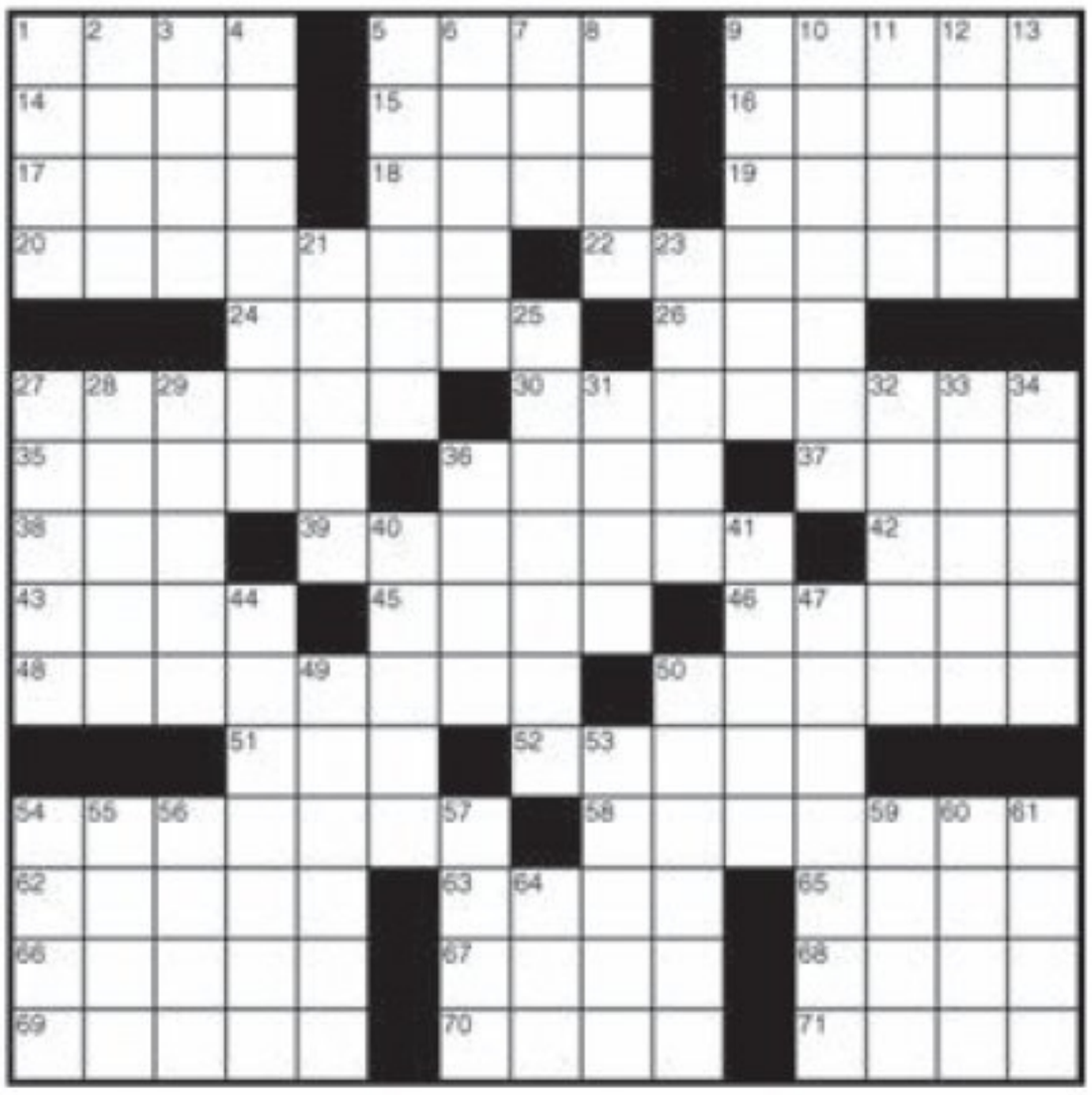

Across

1 Speakeasy risk
5 Rocket trajectories
9 Tommy Lee —
14 Jai —
15 You, formerly
16 Battery terminal
17 Heirs, often
18 Shower liner
19 Bridge expert
20 Russian poet and dramatist
22 Farm worker, often
24 Jet jockey
26 Blushing
27 Dromedary milieu
30 Braced (2 wds.)
35 Bell town of fiction
36 Unstable lepton
37 Ms. McEntire
38 Diamond —
39 Least humble
42 Down for the count
43 Fair-hiring org.
45 Emperor
46 Hippie's money
48 Pizza topping
50 Nice and warm
51 — -pah band
52 Sealing a deal
54 Gear on the slopes (2 wds.)
58 Away from the wind
62 Says "yeth"
63 Centrally located
65 Buffalo's lake
66 Mooring site
67 Dark blue
68 Scaleless fish
69 Hero's acts
70 Fencing weapon
71 Surrealist painter

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6 Jungle charger
7 Cartoon frame
8 Look like
9 Mick, the Stone
10 Not in stock (2 wds.)
11 Ibsen heroine
12 Delightful place
13 On its way
21 Bolshoi rival
23 Does a laundry chore
25 Seaquake aftermath
27 Witch-hunt locale
28 Leave-taking
29 Moon rings
31 Garden tiller
32 Fakes out, on the rink
33 "Das Boot" craft (hyph.)
34 Rice field
36 Japanese soup
40 Element's units
41 Carnivore's delight (hyph.)
44 Bit down
47 Hay fever culprit
49 Meat counter buys
50 Wild T-shirt (hyph.)
53 Novelist — Cussler
54 Lost traction
55 Cattle, old-style
56 Ocean sighting
57 Batman creator
59 Length x width
60 Small brook
61 Ricky Ricardo
64 Explorer's sketch

Down

1 Rough file
2 Slugger Moises —
3 Holm and Fleming
4 Suds container
5 Hun honcho

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easy

1				3	5			
		5	4			3		
		6	8	7		4	1	
	9		7					
3		4		8		1		7
					2		8	
	1	3		5	8	9		
		7			4	5		
			3	6				1

hard

		9		1		8		3
			7				4	6
6	3	7				5		
3					4		1	
1				5				2
	8		1					9
		6				3	2	4
2	1				7			
9		8		2		1		

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries It's a good day to organize and prioritize. Making a last-minute change is your prerogative. Don't change your mind due to a complaint. Look out for your best interests.

Taurus Consider your alternatives when dealing with personal finances, taxes or a medical issue. An opportunity is within reach, as long as you keep everything up to date

Gemini You'll have the advantage if you take a progressive position and aim for accomplishment. A chance meeting with someone special will lead to a romantic opportunity.

Cancer Be ready, willing and able to adapt to unavoidable changes that come your way. Use your imagination and look for creative ways to improve your personal life.

Leo Expand your mind. Ask questions and delve into situations that will help you grow mentally and spiritually and that could lead to a healthier lifestyle.

Virgo Don't give in to manipulation or be tempted to overspend or take on the impossible. Weigh the pros and cons before you make a commitment.

Libra Emotions are best dealt with before they have a chance to fester. Harness your energy and reap the rewards of a positive attitude and a desire to have fun.

Scorpio Make positive changes to your living quarters. A difference of opinion will give you a chance to see a situation from a unique perspective. Discussion will lead to solutions.

Sagittarius Someone will have questionable motives. You can outsmart anyone trying to make you look bad by offering friendship and maintaining a stellar reputation.

Capricorn You'll face opposition if you try to bring about changes that will affect others. You are best off getting approval first if you want the support required to reach your goal.

Aquarius Get back to the hobbies and physical activities you enjoy doing most. Time spent with a loved one will bring you closer together. A new look will enhance your appeal.

Pisces Take the time to explore your options in order to get a better sense of what you want to achieve. Rely on resources that have been dependable in the past. **EUGENIA LAST**

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